

St. Joseph's Parish Upper Hutt

THIS WEEKENDS ROSTER			
December 22/23	Vigil	9am	10.00am
Sacristan – December	Michael Mears	Terri Corbett	
Greeters		Pat Dunstan	
Hospitality		Fran & Derek Kane	Rosalind Runciman
Gathering Rite	Mick Quinn	Mary Grant	Clarita Estuita
Altar Servers	Samasoni Hewitt Aaliyah Eslera Mary Estuita	Manase Taulanga Adrian Issah Connor Vaikona	Zhali Morgan Heleina Fainga'a Nina Bennett
Projectionists	Harrison Blain	Michael Jordan	Julian Millar
Prayer of Faithful	B. Donaldson / P. Byrne		
Proclaimer of the Word Cantor	Suzette Reyes	Chris Fouhy Peter Dawson	Jane Glasgow Parish Youth
Gifts Procession	Margaret John	Vera Crombie	
Collection Procession			Des McMullan
Music Ministry	Angela Lee	Theresa Jordan	Parish Youth
Eucharistic Ministers	Clare Hewitt Bernadette Masoe Terri Corbett	Vernon Hoey, Bev Holcroft, Dian Marlow, Ann Peebles, Riutendo Monzora	Anna Orallo, Roman Zarate Des McMullan, John Phillips Abraham Baltazar
Bell Ringer	Danny	John Dol	
Children's Liturgy	Finished for the Year		
Martha Ministry	Uvea Team – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 29/30 December		
December Ministries	Counting Team – Lacuna & Zarate Team Lawn Mowing – St. Joseph's – Quinn Family		
Flowers	NO Flowers during Advent		

December 29/30	Vigil	9am	10.30AM
Sacristan – December	Michael Mears	Terri Corbett	
Greeters		Carolyn Driscoll	
Hospitality			
Gathering Rite	Jo Blain	Kevin Havell	John Phillips
Altar Servers	Joshua & Katie Jordan Joey Moorman	Dana Andrews Atonio Eneliko Joziah Eneliko	Sefo Taufatouta Selwyn Uvea Gibbeon Pole'o
Projectionists	Nel Mullin	Peter Dawson	Youth Group
Prayer of Faithful	Joe & Kelly Moorman		
Proclaimer of the Word Cantor	Virginia Hewson Joe Moorman	Sonali James	Ana Ineleo Parish Youth
Gifts Procession		Pat Dunstan	
Collection Procession		John Dol	
Music Ministry	Angela Lee		Liko Alosio
Eucharistic Ministers	Lorraine Sayer Denis Lee Janet Robinson	Mike Driscoll, Vangie Ford, Keith & Liz Budd, Marie Kirkup	Lina Stowers, Alex & Clarita Estuita, Des Davies, Ely Gascon
Bell Ringer	Danny	John Dol	
Children's Liturgy	Finished for the Year		
Martha Ministry	Tongan Community – Church to be cleaned before weekend of 05/06 January 2019		
December Ministries	Counting Team – Lacuna & Zarate Team Lawn Mowing – St. Joseph's – Quinn Family		
Flowers	Annette McDonald		

Parish Priest
Fr Maleko Api-Tufuga
Fr. Biju Xavier (Assistant)
Ph 528 2028

Parish Secretary
Christine Macartney
Ph 528 2028

Pastoral Council
Peter Dawson
Ph 021 2580 595

Finance Committee
Carolyn Driscoll
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St Joseph's School
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(Office)
(Fr Maleko)
(Fr Biju)
(Parish Website)



Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm, **Sunday** 9 am & 10.30 am
Weekdays: Mon (usually) Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat 9.00am; Fri 6.30am & 11.15am
Reconciliation: Friday: 10.30 – 11am; Sat: 9.25-10.00am

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22/23 DECEMBER 2018

YEAR C

Liturgy of the Word:

Psalm Response: **“Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”**
 Today's Readings: Micah 5: 1-4, Hebrews 10: 5-10, Luke 1: 39-45
 Next Sunday: 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28, 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24, Luke 2: 41-52



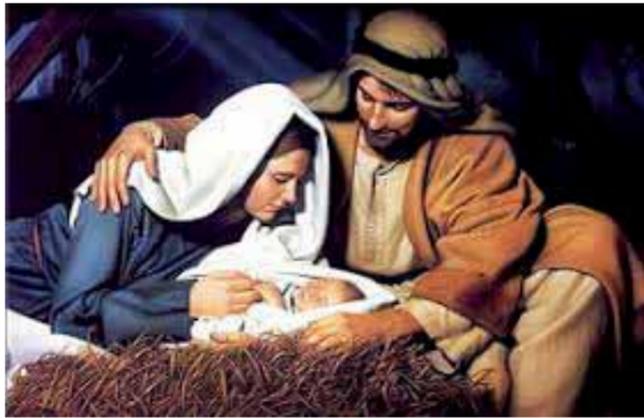
WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH GREAT REJOICING?

First – Christmas is the Feast of God's sending us a Saviour God undertook the Incarnation of Jesus as God-Man to save us from the bondage of sin. The Hindus believe in ten incarnations of God. The purpose of these incarnations is stated in their Holy Scripture, Bagavath Geetha or Song of God. “God incarnates to restore righteousness in the world whenever there is a large-scale erosion of moral values.” (“Dharma samstaphanarthe sambhavami yuge yuge”) But the Christian Scriptures teach only one Incarnation, and its purpose is given in John 3: 16: “God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.” We celebrate the Incarnation of God as a baby today as Good News because we have a Divine Saviour. As our Saviour, Jesus liberated us from slavery to sin by his suffering, death and Resurrection and he atoned for our sins. So, every Christmas reminds us that we need a Saviour every day, to free us from our evil addictions and unjust, impure and uncharitable tendencies. This Christmas also challenges us to accept Jesus in the manger as our saving God and personal Saviour and to surrender our lives to him, allowing him to rule our hearts and lives every day in the New Year.

Second – Christmas is the Feast of God's sharing His love with us: Jesus, as our Saviour, brought the “Good News” that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful and rewarding God and not a judgemental, cruel and punishing God. He demonstrated by his life and teaching how God our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, provides for us and rewards us. All his miracles were signs of this Divine Love. Jesus' final demonstration of God's love for us was his death on the cross to atone for our sins and to make us children of God. Each Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian duty, and every time we do that, Jesus is reborn in our lives. Let us face this question, “What does it profit me if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world and He is not born in my heart?” (Alexander Pope). Hence, let us allow Jesus to be reborn in our hearts and lives, not only during Christmas, but every day, so that he may radiate the light of his presence from within us as sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, the spirit of humble service and overflowing generosity.

Third – Christmas is the Feast of the Emmanuel (God living with us and within us): Christmas is the Feast of the Emmanuel because God in the New Testament is a God who continues to live with us in all the events of our lives as the “Emmanuel” announced by the angel to Mary. As Emmanuel, Jesus lives in the Sacraments (especially in the Holy Eucharist) in the Bible, in the praying community and in each believer as the Holy Spirit transforms us into “Temples of the Holy Spirit.” Christmas reminds us that we are bearers of God with the missionary duty of conveying Jesus to those around us by loving them as Jesus did, through sacrificial, humble and committed service. Sharing with others Jesus, the Emmanuel living with us, is the best Christmas gift we can give, or receive today.

Fr. Maleko Tufuga



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Monday 24 December

6.00 pm Children's/Family Mass
10.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

(Both Masses preceded by 30 minutes of Carol Singing)

Christmas Day - Tuesday 25 December

9.30 am Christmas Day Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND PRAYERS

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during **Christmas 2018** and every day of the **New Year 2019**. May he radiate His presence from within you as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart and overflowing generosity. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year. We assure you of my special prayers during our Christmas Holy Masses and every day in the New Year.

From Father's Maleko, Biju & Kevin

Please note that the Church will be locked after Masses during the Holiday period.

Last Bulletin for the year is this weekend 22/23 December. The first bulletin for 2019 will be the weekend of 26/27 January.

Parish Office is now closed – It will re-open on Wednesday 9 January

Weekly Collections

Weekly income required - \$1,950.00
Last weeks giving - \$2,180.00
Surplus - \$230.00 – Surplus due in large part to a generous donation from the Upper Hutt Tongan Community

Vocation Prayers for January 2019 – Phil Griffiths

Remember in Prayer – George Mulder, Mavis Peters, Joseph Dillon, David Wanden, Janet Carresco, Wayne Smith, Sr. Thelma Backhurst, Taara Tinganga (Father of Fr. Tikoua Kautu), Mary, Arthur & Pauline Richardson, Charles Tait, Helen & Brendan Black, Roger Crombie, Ellen, Jim, George, James & David Morgan, Fr. K.F. Mears, Alan Maathuis, Freda, Laurie & Marion Finlay, Eleanor Campbell, the sick, special needs and Intentions.



Sunday the 23rd of December Carol singing and prayers at the Grotto of Our Lady beside the Presbytery at 7pm. All welcome.

Synod Update: Go you are sent to support marriage and families 11(a) *The Archdiocese engages with parents, including single parents, to determine how best to support them in educating and involving their children in the faith, and acts on the outcomes.*

Parish Library Ministry - we are looking for people to help manage our parish library. They will help catalogue books, keep library books sorted and tidy, and take a turn on a monthly basis to select books to be presented in the foyer to encourage people to borrow the books. Other areas of responsibility may emerge as we develop this ministry. If you can help with this please let Christine in the office know or ring Teresa 527 9061.



Church Gardens - for many years our gardens have been a joy to behold and the subject of many admiring comments. Our sincere thanks to Joe and Frances Ryan for the generous gift of time and talent spent in the gardens. Joe is deservedly standing down at the end of this year from this role.

The Finance Committee would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in maintaining the gardens from 2019. Please contact Carolyn on 5278 447 or mcdriscoll@xtra.co.nz

Christmas Day Appeal – If you are on automatic payment and you wish to contribute to this appeal, please put your donation in an envelope with the name of the appeal, your planned giving number / or your name and address on the front.



Planned Giving – We are a Catholic community of Aotearoa New Zealand, following Jesus Christ by celebrating and sharing faith, growing in community, and working for justice and peace. "Everything – time, talent and treasure – given to the parish is a gift."

Have you ever considered going on the Planned Giving system here at St. Joseph's. You can do this by automatic Payment or the weekly envelope system. Your donations entitle you to a 33% tax rebate and a receipt will be provided to you at the end of the financial year. Planned Giving forms are available on the table in Foyer. Please ring Christine in Office for a reference number. If you have any enquiries please ring Christine at the Parish Office 528 2028

Position for a Relief Cook - Cooking

for a community of Eight Religious Sisters in the Hutt Valley Area 18 Hours per Fortnight - Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Cooking lunch and preparing tea. Also filling in for other staff when sick or on annual leave. Extra hours over the December and January period. Contact: Ria on 04 527 8045 or pcmanagervj@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Scouts and Venturers would like to thank the parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish and the residents of Upper Hutt for supporting our fundraising efforts this year. This has allowed us to sell almost 600 bags of compost and more than 1000 dozen lamingtons. The money raised will be used towards the costs of insulating the roof and installing heat pumps in the Scout Hall, 14 Venturers and 4 Leaders attending the New Zealand Venture at the end of this year, and Scouts and Leaders attending the World Jamboree and New Zealand Jamboree next year. Thanks again!"

Parish to Parish for Bed & Breakfast" Since the first book was printed 15 years ago, many hosts have suffered health problems, downsized their homes etc.as we urgently require more hosts in places all over the country, I would encourage anyone with a spare bedroom or two in their home, to come and join us. The accommodation does not have to be 5 star, just clean, comfortable and welcoming, also providing a light breakfast. The purpose of this book is aimed at providing catholic hospitality and making new friends. The hosts charge a small fee of \$35 for one only person, or \$30 per person for 2 or more per night. For further information please contact Marie Anderson on 03 359 5541 or email marie.ian@xtra.co.nz

House for rent urgently needed: former refugee family of 9 urgently need accommodation. If you can assist or know of any accommodation about to become available in the Wellington area, please contact Catholic Social Services at reception@wn.catholic.org.nz

Challenge 2000 Marist Gap and Internship Year 2019: Aged 18- 24? Finished School or University and not sure what path to take? We have the perfect opportunity for you! The Marist Challenge Gap year programme, starting mid February enables you to make a difference, serve others and learn about youth work and different career paths while getting paid! The programme offers many opportunities to grow professionally, personally and spiritually and to gain a wide range of employment and life skills and experience. The applications are still open for 2019, if you are interested or want more information go to <https://www.challenge2000.org.nz/> or contact Anna on 027 842 1280 or Kitty on 021 491 459.

Once Mary has received the message of the angel and said "yes" to the call to become the Mother of the Saviour, she sets out in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Mary is very young; what she was told is a great gift, but it also entails great challenges... Yet Mary does not shut herself up at home or let herself be paralyzed by fear or pride. Mary is not the type that, to be comfortable, needs a good sofa where she can feel safe and sound. She is no couch potato! If her elderly cousin needs a hand, she does not hesitate, but immediately sets off.
Pope Francis: [Message for World Youth Day 2017](#)

St. Valentine's Day Mass - Thursday 14th February 2019 at 6pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria.

All welcome to a celebration of love. Also, we are looking for couples who are celebrating a significant anniversary. If you, or if you know someone celebrating 25, 30, 40 or 50+ years married, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Felicity Giltrap at the Catholic Centre (04) 496 1719 or email f.giltrap@wn.catholic.org.nz

Christmas Star - The star is one of the most popular symbols associated with the Christmas season. The use of stars as Christmas decoration and symbol can be traced to the events that occurred during Jesus' birth.

History of Christmas Star



It is said that the night Jesus was born; a very bright star appeared in the sky. It was that star that served as a guide to the three wise men in their search for Jesus.

The same night, a group shepherds were staying on the fields when the star shone. They were very frightened, but God sent an angel to tell them not to be afraid because the star will only bring joy and goodness. The shepherds eventually left their flocks in the fields and followed the star which led them to the manger where Jesus was born.

After it led the shepherds and the wise men to the presence of Jesus Christ, the star rested in place and watched over them until dawn, when it went away to tell the other stars about the story of Christmas day. Now, the star is used during Christmas, as a symbol of joy, goodness and hope.